

# Record

THE BAPTIST

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Miss. Baptists to pilot BGR project

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

Mississippi Baptists will work with Kentucky and Tennessee Baptists in a Baptist Global Response (BGR) pilot project to help minister to the AIDS affected people of sub-Saharan Africa.

"We have notified the men's directors and wMu directors of our churches asking them to have their church participate," said Jim Didlake, director of the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

"We are asking Mississippi Baptists to make 'BGR In-home Care Kits.' These are for families who have critically ill members in their homes, with AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, and are buckets containing supplies that will help with sanitation and care."

Items in the kit will make the caregiver's task much easier, but more importantly will ease the suffering of the one affected by illness.

The kit is centered around a five-gallon heavy duty bucket with a lid that seals. In Africa a bucket is a very valuable item that can be used to haul and store water, and store food away from rodents and insects. Inside the buckets are items that will assist in keeping patients clean and dry, items to protect their mat or mattress from soiling, and vitamins to help keep their immune system strong. Antifungal and hydrocortisone creams, antibiotic ointment, and medicated lip balm are included to help treat skin problems.

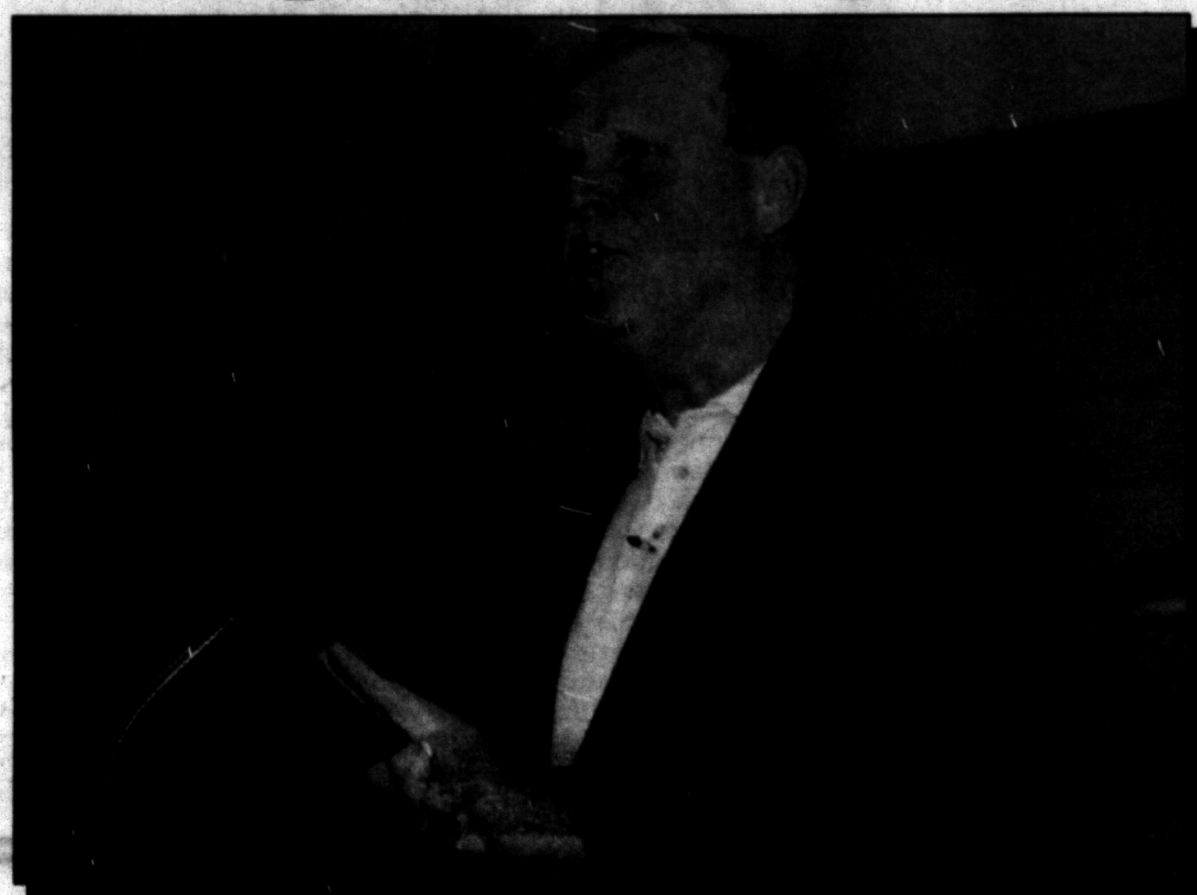
BGR is asking Baptists from the three pilot states to assist in preparing approximately 2,250 kits, which will fill three 20-foot ocean shipping containers.

Every item in the kit is available at Wal-Mart stores for convenience, including the five gallon bucket and lid used as the primary container. Each contact person in the local church has been provided with a precise, detailed list of the items needed along with the cost and SKU number of each item. The materials provided even give detailed packing instructions.

"If you plan to help, be sure to get the exact information we've provided," said Didlake. "We have to follow this in detail." Individuals or churches need to purchase all the items in the kit new, and not try to substitute any items. It is critical that the proper bucket be purchased from Wal-Mart, for uniformity in packing and shipping as well as customs approval in recipient countries.

"Please don't put any religious materials in the kits," said Didlake. "When they get to the field, the mission personnel and churches there will put language-friendly literature in them before they're distributed house-to-house. Because of customs regulations, we don't want any situations to arise that might hurt the work."

The estimated cost of one complete bucket is approximately \$125. Complete instructions on preparing and packing a bucket can be obtained through the material sent to men's ministry directors and wMu directors in local churches, or by con-



SHARING THE NEED — Jeff Palmer, executive director of Baptist Global Response, briefs participants at the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Training and Update event at Central Hills March 28-29 on the work of the organization and the need for "care kits" for terminally ill victims of AIDS and other diseases in sub-Saharan Africa. (Photo by Tony Martin)

tacting the Men's Ministry Department or wMu Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

One of the shipping containers filled with the buckets will go to the Baptist Fellowship of Zambia's palliative care ministry, which is centered on assisting home-bound AIDS patients. One container will go to the Sanyati Baptist Hospital in Central Zimbabwe to assist their home care network and one will go to Tabitha Ministries in the KwaZulu-Natal area of South Africa.

This is a time-sensitive project calling for a quick turn-around, Didlake said. After a church or individual has assembled a bucket, it must be taken to a pick-up location on the stated dates:

• Garaywa Camp and Conference Center, May 24-30, Clinton: Contact Jim Didlake, (800) 748-1651; email: jdidlake@mbcb.org

• Lee Association, May 26-27, Tupelo: phone (662) 566-1700; email lbca@lwof.com

• Lafayette Association, May 26-27, Oxford: phone (662) 234-3524; email aa5pj@yahoo.com

• Easthaven Church, May 28-29, Brookhaven: phone (601) 833-2597; email pturner@easthaven.net

• Thirty-eighth Avenue Church, May 28-29, Hattiesburg: phone (601) 264-3897; email: revdean@bellsouth.net

At the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Training and Update event March 28-29, many Task Force participants were introduced to Baptist Global Response (BGR) and its work. The event, held annually at Central Hills Retreat near

Kosciusko, is designed to both train new Task Force members and to refresh and update the skills of veteran members.

According to Frank Page, pastor of First Church, Taylors, South Carolina, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and member of the BGR Board, "BGR is a newly formed Southern Baptist global relief and development organization focused on connecting people in need with people who care. The 'people in need' are the millions around the world who need a touch of compassion in the places they are hurting."

These would include those suffering from chronic needs such as hunger, poverty, and disease, and acute needs such as disasters, wars, and calamities. "The 'people who care' are the Southern Baptists and Baptist partners all around the world," Page states.

The executive director of BGR, headquartered in Singapore, is Jeff Palmer. The U.S. office is in Nashville and is led by Jim Brown. Both Palmer and Brown were at the Central Hills training event.

In 2007, 1.6 million adults and children died because of AIDS in this region of the African continent. 22.5 million adults and children are living with the HIV virus. Beyond HIV/AIDS, many other diseases are rampant. Often the only care those infected receive comes from in-home caregivers.

For more information on Baptist Global Response, contact the ministry at 402 BNA Drive, Suite 411, Nashville, TN 37217. Telephone: (615) 367-3678. Web site: [www.gobgr.com](http://www.gobgr.com).

SINCE 1877

IL 17, 2008

VOL. 132

No. 16

APR 30 2008



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS





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Send news, communication, and  
address changes to: The Editor,  
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,  
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VOLUME 132 • NUMBER 15  
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.

The entirety of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) was aflutter a few weeks ago when the Southern Baptist Environment and Climate Initiative (SBECI) issued something called, A Southern Baptist Declaration on the Environment and Climate Change.

The Declaration states, "We believe our current denominational engagement with these issues [environment and climate change] have often been too timid, failing to produce a unified moral voice. Our cautious response to these issues in the face of mounting evidence may be seen by the world as uncaring, reckless and ill-informed. We can do better. To abandon these issues to the secular world is to shirk from our responsibility to be salt and light. The time for timidity regarding God's creation is no more."

The Declaration enumerates four major areas of concern and concludes with, "We the undersigned, in accordance with our Christian moral convictions and Southern Baptist doctrines, pledge to act on the basis of the claims made in this document. We will

not only teach the truths communicated here but also seek ways to implement the actions that follow from them. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, we urge all who read this declaration to join us in this effort. *Laus Deo!*"

News media immediately jumped on the story with headlines such as, "Southern Baptists back a shift on climate change," in the New York Times.

The offices of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson began to receive irate telephone calls demanding an explanation for this SBC action. Most

callers couldn't understand why the SBC would take such action on a highly-politicized subject like climate change that is still open for debate in many scientific circles.

At about the same time, a press release from an Atlanta public relations firm was faxed to The Baptist Record with the heading, "Southern Baptist leaders find new 'moral voice' on the environment and climate change."

The press release states, "To interview spokespersons for A Southern Baptist Declaration on the Environment and Climate Change, contact Mitchell Leff... or Amber Rigsby..." apparently employees of the Atlanta public relations firm.

When contacted by The Baptist Record, Leff would only say that his firm had been hired by SBECI. The Baptist Record also asked Leff if he and Rigsby were Southern Baptists, but he would not answer multiple inquiries on that subject.

The Baptist Record then contacted Jonathan Merritt, a Southeastern Seminary student and son of former SBC President James Merritt who was listed as project director in the press release.

Merritt responded, "The SBECI is not an official organization or non-profit, so we are unable to accept payments or donations. Therefore, we have no annual budget. We also do not have an official office unless you list the bedroom I rent from a married couple at seminary. The only significant overhead we have had is stationary (done by my designer friend at my church, CrossPointe) and the website (also done by a friend)."

When asked about whether Leff and Rigsby were Southern Baptists, Merritt said, "Any questions regarding Mr. Leff, Schroder PR or Mitch and Amber's denominational affiliation should be directed to them personally."

Apparently, no one wants to talk about whether the public relations specialists handling the "Southern Baptist" Declaration are even Southern Baptist.

The truth is that SBECI and its Declaration have no official standing in the Southern Baptist Convention and, in effect, signify very little.

Richard Land, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, made that much clear in explaining messengers to SBC annual meetings — and not the SBECI — have staked the SBC's official positions on environmental issues.

"Consequently, in our convention-assigned role to share faithfully with Washington and other public policy venues where the convention is on an issue, it would be misleading and unethical of the ERLC to promote a position at variance with the convention's expressly stated positions."

If anything, the so-called Declaration is misleading. It is not a "A Southern Baptist Declaration," as it is being promoted, but rather "A Declaration by some Southern Baptists." The wording is important, as indicated by the irate calls to the MBCB by people who were misled into believing the Declaration was an official SBC document.

Anyone interested in uncovering the official positions of the Southern Baptist Convention can do so at the SBC web site, www.sbc.net. The web site lists all resolutions from 1845 to the present, as well as position statements and legal authorities.

In our modern world of slick public relations campaigns and inventive use of language, we should all do some research before swallowing whole the disingenuous pronouncements of phantom groups.

Get the truth. It's out there. Sometimes we just have to dig deep to get to it.

My husband's face turned pasty white and he began to sweat profusely. His trembling hands gripped the corners of the linen-clothed table in the center of the elegant restaurant.

"Jim, what's happening?" I quickly asked. He didn't answer. "Jim, are you OK?" I tried again. He took several gulps of water and answered hoarsely, "I don't feel right. Something's wrong. I'm dizzy."

Ignoring my warning, Jim pushed his chair back from the table, stood on shaky legs, paused for balance and then staggered all of 10 feet before passing out. On the way down, the impact of his face hitting the corner of a heavy wooden chair caused his chin to split open and his top teeth to embed into his bottom lip. Blood was everywhere.

Pandemonium broke out all over the restaurant. Women gasped. Men bolted from their chairs. The waitress nearby yelled for help as she rolled Jim over to see if he was breathing. In slow motion, I ran through quicksand on legs that seemed to have 50-pound concrete blocks strapped to them. "Oh, Lord! What's happening?"

Jim argued that he was "fine." "I just need to go to the hotel room and lie down for a minute," he slurred through a mouth overflowing with blood

## GUEST OPINION:



### Denial can be dangerous

By Ginger Plowman  
Opelika, Al.

and a gaping hole in his chin that revealed stuff not meant to be seen. "Calling an ambulance is ridiculous!" he continued. "Babe, you go ahead and finish your soup. I'll just go to the room and splash some water on my face and I'll be right back."

It wasn't until Jim saw his face in a mirror that he agreed to a trip to the emergency room, which eight hours later resulted in 11 stitches and the diagnoses of a dislocated jaw. His passing out was caused from dehydration, the consequence of too much time in the steam room and sauna and not enough water.

While our early anniversary trip to Asheville, N.C., didn't end as romantically as I'd hoped, it did get me to thinking about some things.

How many times have I not

wanted to admit something was "wrong" in my life? How often do I try to convince others and myself that I'm "fine" when I know, deep down, that something is not right? How many times have I failed to heed the warnings of the Holy Spirit or the wise counsel of God's Word, only to suffer painful consequences as a result?

I, too, have found myself in dangerous denial on more than one occasion.

The consequences of denying sin vary, but perhaps the worst of these is broken fellowship with God. King David was deemed a man after God's own heart, but he knew the misery of broken fellowship with God. Throughout the Psalms, David beseeched God for restoration of fellowship. David also knew that not all sin is easily identi-

fied, but can cleverly hide in the corners of the heart (Psalm 139:23-24).

The good news of the Gospel is that God is compassionate and gracious. He is slow to anger. He is abounding in love and faithfulness, and forgiving of wickedness, rebellion, and sin (Exodus 34:6-7). While sin breaks fellowship with God, grace restores that fellowship.

This grace is freely offered to us through Christ alone. He bids us to come to Him and repent of sin, that he might live in and through us, and that we might rest in His amazing grace. Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

*Lord, burst open the doors of my heart and reveal the sins I try to cover up. Scoop out the infections that have taken hold and cleanse me through your atonement. Fill the gaping hole with your righteousness and apply the soothing balm of your forgiveness. Then, Lord, stitch me back together again with your hands of mercy and, by your grace, make me stronger than before. Do this all for your glory and honor. Amen.*

Plowman is an author and the founder of Preparing the Way Ministries. Visit her website at [www.GingerPlowman.com](http://www.GingerPlowman.com).



# So. Baptists sending 92 new missionaries

SUNNYVALE, Texas (BP) — How urgent is the world's need for the Gospel? The answer came to Grace Johnson (not her real name) the day she held a young mother in her arms and watched helplessly as she slipped into eternity without Jesus Christ.

At the time, Johnson was a 23-year-old journeyman from Missouri who had answered God's call to short-term missions using her skills as a nurse. She wound up ministering among the slums of a South Asian city, providing health care to pave the way for the Gospel.

It was from these slums that the young mother, Ila (not her real name) came to Johnson. Ila had suffered a miscarriage and was close to death. Johnson took her to a nearby hospital, but doctors did little more than administer an IV.

Johnson stayed with Ila, cradling her body on a cold, stainless-steel stretcher without sheets or padding — a moment Johnson will never forget.

"There is nothing like a young woman your age gasping her last breath in your arms, knowing she never had the opportunity to hear about Jesus, to give urgency to sharing the Gospel," she said.

Now that same sense of urgency is compelling Johnson to return to the mission field. She's one of 92 new missionaries appointed by the International Mission Board April 9 in Sunnyvale, Texas.

"Why does God want the nations to know Him?" asked International Mission Board (IMB) President Jerry Rankin of more than 2,500 people gathered for the service at Sunnyvale First Church.



GOING FORTH — New missionaries and the congregation at Sunnyvale First Church near Dallas pause for a benediction at the close of the April 9 missionary appointment service. (BP photo)

"It's because of the tragedy of lostness. Here in America we just can't imagine what it means to live in a place that's never heard the name of Jesus. To live a lifetime in futile search for your eternal destiny, never knowing that there's a Savior who died for you.

"We're so grateful... that you 92 new missionaries are taking a stand. Taking a stand in obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ; taking a stand on behalf of the power of the Gospel to penetrate a lost world," said the Mississippi native.

The new missionaries represented a diverse cross-section of Southern Baptist life, coming from churches across the country and many different walks of life. Rankin noted a common thread in many of their testimonies — the same sense of urgency Grace Johnson described.

"Once God impacts your life with the lostness of the world you just can't turn away from it," Rankin said.

Neither could Johnson, which is why she'll soon take her nursing skills and passion for evangelism to the Muslim world, serving among the people of Northern Africa and the Middle East.

"During my two years as a journeyman, my mind was opened to a whole new reality of the lostness of the world, as well as my complete dependence on God," Johnson said. "I constantly had to face the urgency of providing the people I was around with the Gospel."

It was difficult not second-guessing herself after losing Ila, Johnson admitted. She was from an area of the slums that Johnson was told was "too dangerous" to enter.

"It makes you think, 'What if I had pushed a little harder to get to that other side?'" Johnson said. She prayed for an open door, and God soon used the tragedy to provide one.

Ila's family was so touched by Johnson's care for their daughter that they invited her to their home. Soon she had an open invitation to begin sharing Bible stories there. Several came to the Lord as a result of her work.

Many of the new missionaries spoke about confronting

darkness and hearing God's call to missions for the first time on volunteer mission trips with their church. Others shared their struggles to leave behind family, friends and the comforts of home for the mission field.

Kentucky native Marshall Smith (not his real name) was content to be a "pew warmer" before he felt God's call to missions. His wife Jennifer remembers bursting into tears whenever Marshall talked about going overseas.

"I would usually break down crying because I couldn't get over the thought of leaving his parents or giving away our animals," she said. "My general response: 'No way, not me.'"

The Smiths are now on their way to serve in Northern Africa and the Middle East.

Rankin recognized separation wasn't easy for the missionaries' families either, many of whom traveled to Texas for the appointment service.

"We know the mixed emotions that you must be experiencing," he said. "I've seen both of my children appointed and take my grandchildren to the other side of the world. Even though I have a heart for missions, there was something painful about that but I want you to know that God has a special touch of grace for you."

## Youth shun Islam

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP and local reports) — Constant violence in the name of Islam may be turning Iraqi youth against Islamic extremists, some observers in the country believe. Interviews with 40 young people in five Iraqi cities over the course of two months revealed anecdotal evidence that young people blame Muslim clerics for ongoing violence and rules that limit their freedom in everyday life. "I hate Islam and all the clerics because they limit our freedom every day and their instruction became heavy over us," a high school student in Basra said, according to The New York Times. "Most of the girls in my high school hate that Islamic people control the authority because they don't deserve to be rulers." Under strict Islamic law, young people caught smoking have had their fingers broken and young people with long hair have had it cut and force-fed to them. The Times reported. University professors reportedly are having difficulty recruiting students for religion classes, and attendance at weekly prayers appears to be down in some areas. "When they behead someone, they say 'Allahu akbar' [God is great], they read Koranic verse," a moderate Shiite sheik from Baghdad said. "The young people, they think that is Islam, so Islam is a failure, not only in the students' minds, but also in the community." "I used to love Osama bin Laden," a 24-year-old Iraqi college student said. "Now I hate Islam. Al Qaeda and the Mahdi Army are spreading hatred. People are being killed for nothing." Islamic terrorists' constant violence in Iraq also appears to be turning everyday people against the movement, with neighborhood residents reportedly turning in terrorists and advising the government on the location of bomb factories and IED placements.

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

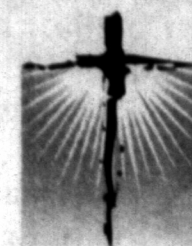
William W. "Bill" Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board since 1989, announces that he will retire at the end of September 1998.

### 20 years ago

Over 500 students and directors from 27 college campuses in the state gather at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian for the annual BSU Leadership Training Conference. They also commission 58 students for summer missions.

### 50 years ago

Current enrollment for Blue Mountain College for the '57-'58 session is 317, and for the last fiscal year the college is completely debt free.



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND  
FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

APRIL 17, 2008

VOL. 132

No. 16





#### YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer  
with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.  
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my  
sins and freedom from eternal  
death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose  
from the grave to forgive my  
sins and to restore my rela-  
tionship with you.  
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus  
Christ into my life. From this  
time on, I want to live in a lov-  
ing relationship with Him. (I  
receive Christ as my Savior  
and Lord.)

"But as many as received him,  
to them he gave the right to become  
children of God, even to those who  
believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for  
Jesus Christ today, contact a  
local Baptist church for spiritu-  
al guidance.

#### GETTING CLOSE TO CHURCH

It is not always easy just to walk into one of our church buildings for a worship service. I know that you and I think that it is the simplest thing in the world, but you and I are wrong. People have a lot of inhibitions and uncertainties about coming in among us. Will I be dressed properly? Have I come at the right time? Am I coming in the right door? Are there places I can and cannot sit? Will I know how to respond during parts of the worship service? Will I know anybody? How will people treat me? There are a whole range of memories and experiences with church people, churches, and church related events that can forever cause you to be cautious.

I know that the Bible says, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is" (Heb. 11:25a). I know that one of the commandments is, "Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy" (Ex. 20:8). I know that God invites us to come and meet with Him and His people. I certainly recognize that God had some wonderful, special, meaningful, and life-changing things in mind when He welcomes us to worship regularly on the Lord's Day. Still, it is not always easy for folks.

Recently, I was reminded of how awkward it is sometimes to come to church even when you know what time you are supposed to be there, you know the people who are there, and even how to fit in with the events of church life. I was talking with a lady who was a member of one of our churches and she was telling me about an experience that she had at her work place on an Easter Sunday. A lady came in and the worker spoke to this customer and asked her how she was doing. She said, "Not too well." The worker responded, "I am sorry. Can I help you?" The lady just expressed to her that it was Easter and it had been a tough day.

It was the first holiday that she had spent since the death of her husband and everything was shaped and shaded by the emptiness that she felt because he was not there. She wanted to go to church and so she got up, got ready, and went to her church but did not go in for the service. For some of you who have lost loved ones you know that it can be awkward walking into a crowd and facing people who may want to express their sympathy, but they make statements that you could do without or sometimes ask inappropriate questions. She wanted to go to church, but she could not face all



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

of that so she sat in her car in the parking lot. She was close to the church and listened to the worship service on the radio.

The worker at the store was very caring and responded to encourage her and affirm her in the effort that she had made. The lady turned, left, and has not been seen in that place of business again. Isn't it interesting how the Lord brings those things about in our lives to help us understand how to help others and the awkwardness they feel about church?

The fact is that many people do not know what would be acceptable dress at church. They do not understand the nuances of the things that transpire in a worship service. They do not know how to get around in the building or what door is proper or improper to go through. They do not know what to do with the kids. They do not know if they will be singled out and called on to do something, to give something or maybe just to stand up. It is a fact that many people struggle with what you should or should not wear in order to be accepted

in church circles. Many of our churches go to great lengths to make sure that people understand they can come to church in casual dress. People want to be appropriate for the setting, and if they are not they really do feel like an oddball.

On one occasion, I was asked to come and speak at a banquet. I was told that everybody there was going to be wearing tuxedos. I got my tux out, got ready, and went only to find myself at a banquet where everyone else was dressed casual and I was the only one in the room wearing a tuxedo. On another occasion, I was asked to speak at a church banquet and was given instructions that it was going to be a western theme. The food was going to be barbeque with all the trimmings and I was told it would be good if I could wear blue jeans, a western shirt, and cowboy boots. That is what I did only to get there and find out it was not what anybody else did. Somewhere along the line, they changed the theme and the dress code changed. There I was in my cowboy regalia,

everybody else was kind of dolled up and duded up, and I was the speaker for the evening. Some of the folks who were a part of that meeting still call me Tex. I got through the evening, but until this day I can remember how strange I felt being out of sync with the other folks that were there.

There are people, many of whom we will never know, who get up and start getting ready to go to church. Possibly, in driving to the church building or maybe even driving around the parking lot they decide to leave because it is too difficult to connect. They get close to the church.

If our churches are going to reach people, it seems to me that we are going to have to adopt more Good Samaritan models of outreach. You all remember the story of the Good Samaritan, but focus on that part where Jesus said that the man who helped, who we call the Good Samaritan, got personally involved. He saw the distress and dilemma in the man's life, picked him up, put him on his own donkey, and took him to the inn. He talked with the manager to make sure that everything was taken care of before he left. There was then, and there still is today, a great need for personal care and involvement to reach folks. If we reach them, somewhere down the line somebody is going to have to be connected with them.

The author can be contacted at  
jifutal@mbcb.org.

# 1883 QUASQUICENTENNIAL 2008

## First Baptist Church Columbia

invites you to join

in our 125th Anniversary Celebration  
Saturday, May 3 through Sunday May 4

### Saturday, May 3 activities:

Reception 5 pm - 7 pm

Historical cemetery tours Carriage Rides Dinner under the Tent  
Outdoor Music Outdoor children's fun & games Indoor Exhibits

### Sunday, May 4 activities:

Sunday School 9:30 am • worship 10:30 am • Dinner on the grounds 12:00 pm

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# N.O. congregation rebuilds, returns home

**NEW ORLEANS (BP)** — Imagine the nation's worst natural disaster striking your home. Water nine feet deep. No more books or furniture. No more safety or security.

For two and a half years you're in limbo, dependent on the kindness of people who take you in. They become friends, though at first there seemed to be a chasm of differences. Finally, you get to go back into your house, and you see it is exactly the same. Even the ivory/rose color scheme is as it was before the disaster.

Such a day of rejoicing it was for the Franklin Avenue Church family on April 6.

"We're baaaaaack, y'all!" pastor Fred Luter Jr. exulted, and the New Orleans congregation exploded with joy. "We're baaaaaack," he repeated three more times, and each time the congregation responded with more rejoicing.

Both the 7:30 and 10:30 a.m. services were standing room only in Franklin Avenue's fan-shaped worship center, in side rooms set up with closed-circuit television, in the foyer and spilling out onto the sidewalk. More than 4,000 people participated in the two services, church leaders estimated.

"So many people are here I'm thankful the fire marshal didn't show up," Luter said as he stood at the oak pulpit where he had preached since 1986. Virtually every statement the pastor made



**BACK HOME** — Worshippers at Franklin Avenue Church in New Orleans lined the walls of the worship center, filled the overflow rooms, and stood in the foyer to mark the first service back in their renovated facility since Hurricane Katrina. Pastor Fred Luter Jr. (on right, facing choir) claps in celebration of the return to the facility that was destroyed by floodwaters when Hurricane Katrina caused levees all across New Orleans to fail in August 2005. (BP photo by Stacey Billger)

was echoed with the congregation's exuberant approval, except for the serious moments in his sermon from the Old Testament's Book of Habakkuk. Everybody has foes, and Hurricane Katrina was a formidable foe, Luter preached.

"What can be said about the worst natural disaster in the history of our nation and how that disaster affected so many of us? ...We've been affected... but now... now that you're back in your own pews... our disaster has turned into dancing!"

Life is full of failure, Luter preached as his second point. Not only did governments fail the city, "the levees failed us; the levees failed us," Luter said, his voice carrying a sense of betrayal.

Habakkuk, Luter pointed out, could have put his faith in figs, grapes, olives, sheep, or cattle, but instead he was unwavering in his faith in God.

"His faith didn't depend on what he expected from God, but on God Himself," Luter preached. "Our faith is tested when things are not going well."

Life is full of foes and failures but, Luter declared, life is full of God's favor for the children of God.

"God gave us favor and here we are today," said the former vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention. "It's time to celebrate, to worship, to dance!" Luter showed enough fancy footwork in each service to stir the congregation to new heights of celebration. He said it was the first time he had danced in the pulpit in 21 years and he hoped his deacons would forgive him.

Both services included special moments, especially those involving First Church where Franklin Avenue Church had met since September 2005. David Crosby, First Church's pastor, and Luter shared a private word and a bear hug that left both of them wiping tears from their eyes.

"In 36 years of ministry," Crosby said, "this [two and a half years of housing the Franklin Avenue congregation] has been the greatest thing in my ministry."

Crosby noted: "One thing Katrina taught me is that there is only one race, the human race," to which the Franklin Avenue congregation expressed their enthusiastic agreement. "Maybe this happened so we could get some things straightened out," he said.

The Lord's Supper was taken during both services. Other high points: a thundering 100-voice mass choir of displaced Franklinites now living in several states, directed by Beverly Criddle and accompanied by a high-energy band; a musical special by former member Bridget Bazile of Seattle, who sings opera professionally; and a tribute to the 30 church members who have died since the last time Franklin Avenue Church met in its home.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**REASONABLY PRICED INSURANCE:** Medicare supplements, major medical, & small group health insurance plans available for individuals & churches. Call Carra Turner (662) 231-4487 for rates or visit [www.turnerinsuranceonline.com](http://www.turnerinsuranceonline.com).

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**THE LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN BEACH** Retreat and Conference Center, Orange Beach, Alabama. Directly on the Gulf of Mexico. Ideal for church beach retreats. From 10 to 150 people, \$30 per night per person. A ministry of Romar Beach Baptist Church. Call Don at 251-752-2366.

**AVAILABLE FOR YOUTH** speaking/engagement. Please call Bro. Bill Henderson from Pascagoula at 228-355-0575.

**WILD WEST TOUR/PURPOSE DRIVEN** Tours: June 9-28-Yellowstone, Rushmore, Grand Canyon, 5 more N. Parks, Colorado Springs, 16 states, much more. Christian owned Ms. company. Call 601-371-8733 for details. Registration deadline Apr. 20.

**CLARK AUCTIONS: NICK CLARK,** real estate broker. Sell your R.E. in 30 days. We buy estates, 601-317-2536, MAL# 1145. Seller pays no commission.

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**CHURCH SEEKING LATE MODEL,** 25-30 passenger, diesel, dual axle, church bus. Contact 662-286-3474.

**OASIS AT THE OCEAN: MINISTERS'** discount at oceanfront resort, Myrtle

Beach, SC. For information: [oasisattheocean@hotmail.com](mailto:oasisattheocean@hotmail.com).

**SERENITY IN THE SMOKIES: MINISTERS'** discount at Pigeon Forge, TN, resort condo. Email [oasisattheocean@hotmail.com](mailto:oasisattheocean@hotmail.com).

**PRESCHOOL MINISTER: CALVARY** Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, is currently searching\* for a full-time preschool minister. Minimum bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. Send resumes to: Minister of Education, 1121 Paul Bryant Drive, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401.

**TWO RURAL ASSOCIATIONS IN WEST** Tennessee are searching for a Director of Missions to serve both associations. The Fayette and Haywood Baptist Associations are comprised of 32 churches. Send resumes to Fayette Baptist Association, 12975 Highway 64, Somerville, TN 38068.

**HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS,** Meridian. Design, fabrication, repair. Fax illustrations to (601) 483-7958 or call (800) 368-2705.

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**CHRISTIAN LONG DISTANCE:** 3.9 state to state, 3.9 in state. No monthly service charge. Call 1-866-587-8346 or [www.lowermyphonebill.com/haroldtt](http://www.lowermyphonebill.com/haroldtt)

## Bibliocipher

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NEW HNAT PE AZBG, NK

QVCPKO NAKZ VNOV

AZBGW DK, NEW VNOV

SPBGE VPKGAX XZC DK

NE ZXXGCPES NEW N

KNQCPXPQG OZ SZW

XZC N KHGGOKYGAAPES

KNBZDC.

GLVGKPNEK XPBG: OHZ

Clue: Q = C

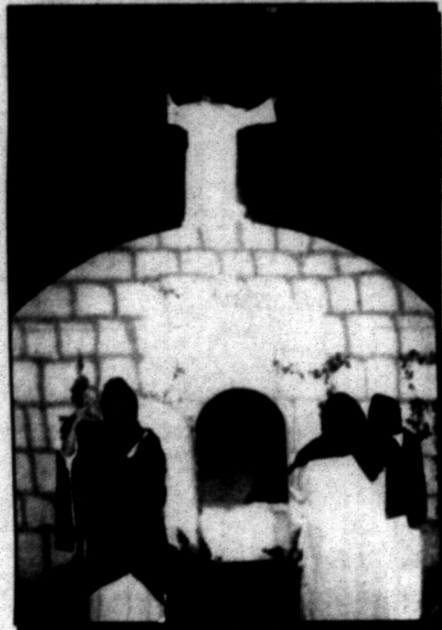
Have fun with .cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Eleven Twenty-Five



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Children's drillers, First Church, Helena



2. Drive-through crucifixion, Park Haven Church, Laurel



3. Cooper, Carrollton Church, Carrollton



4. Page ordination, Heritage Heights Church, Laurel



5. Lakeshore Church, Jackson

1. First Church, Helena, West Point held its children's Bible drill Mar. 26. Participating were Cassey Randle, K.W. Nelson, Maggie Poston, Alyssa Gray, Steven Gentry, Nicole Mercer, and Lydene Cates. Shown are the participants.

2. Park Haven Church, Laurel, held its fifth annual drive through crucifixion Mar. 14 - 15, giving out more than 600 crosses distributed to 256 cars attending. The church recorded six professions of faith. Shown is a scene from the event.

3. Carrollton Church, Carrollton honored Estelle Cooper for 68 years of service in the adult choir. Shown are Cooper and Linda Cooper Perkins.

4. Heritage Heights Church, Laurel, ordained Eric Page as deacon Jan. 6. Shown are pastor Ken Regan, Page, Beth Page, and their children.

5. Lakeshore Church, Jackson, held its 2nd annual flowering of the cross during the church's sunrise Easter services. Shown is Hanna Varner, daughter of pastor Lane Varner.

6. First Church, Helena, ordained Doug Sellers as deacon Mar. 16. Shown are Sellers and pastor and father-in-law Robbie Howard.

7. The wMu of First Church, Buckatunna held a ladies' salad supper in order to reach their community and surrounding areas for Jesus. Guest speaker, Norma Mackey. Shown are the participants.

8. Calvary Church, Louin, ordained James Wade as deacon Mar. 18. Shown are Frank Stevens, pastor William Spencer, Carol Wade, Wade, and Eddie Stevens.

9. First Church, Richland, sent a mission team to Matamoras, Mexico to do construction and VBS work during spring break. Shown are the participants.

10. The congregation of First Church, Plantersville, placed fresh flowers on the cross Easter Sunday. Shown are pastor Danny Balint, Cambria Grissom, Sara Grace, Wesley Caygle, and Tyler Coleman.



6. Sellers, First Church, Helena



7. First Church, Buckatunna, wMu



8. Wade ordination, Calvary Church, Louin



9. Mission team, First Church, Richland



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 17, 2008

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

## *Glorieta on the Gulf*

GROWING CHURCHES

*The Acts 1:8 Revolution – Transform Our World*

AUGUST 15-16

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, BILOXI

### TRAINING TRACKS:

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For more information,  
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Gulf Coast Association  
228-832-4311 or  
MBCB  
Discipleship and Family  
Ministry Department  
1-800-748-1651, ext. 373  
or 601-292-3373



Mississippi  
Singing Churchmen  
*Spring Tour*

MONDAY, APRIL 21, 7 P.M.

FBC, Columbus

TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 1 P.M.

Southwest Community College, Summit

TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 7 P.M.

FBC, Brookhaven



FBC  
Pontotoc  
May 18  
6:30 p.m.

**ONE VOICE in Concert**

## Small/Bivocational Church Pastor's Workshop

Monday, June 30

Auburn Baptist Church, Tupelo

Tuesday, July 1

Easthaven BC, Brookhaven

**Speaker: Barry Campbell**

Director, Eastern Region

LifeWay Christian Resources

For more information, contact Kay McDonnell at  
601-292-3305, 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305,  
or kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

## WMU Annual Meeting and Missions Celebration

June 8-9, Indianapolis, Indiana

(prior to Southern Baptist Convention, June 10 - 11)

### To book a hotel or make reservations

- <http://www.sbcannualmeeting.net/sbc08/hotels.asp> to locate a hotel and make your own reservations
- Or if you prefer to complete forms and book the Marriott, use the forms found at <http://sbcannualmeeting.net/sbc08/pdf/HousingForm2008.pdf>.
- If you have questions, you might try the SBC Housing Coordinator at Lrichmond@sbc.net or 615-782-8612.

### (optional info)

- Housing/Reservations Contact: Fax: 317-684-2492, E-mail: [housing@indianapolis.org](mailto:housing@indianapolis.org)
- The Indianapolis Marriott Downtown is the Convention Hotel and requires a three night minimum stay. PLEASE NOTE: 3 ROOMS CAN BE BOOKED AT ONE TIME.

For more information, contact MS wMu at 601-292-3319 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 319



Super  
Summer  
08

## "Lord of the Ring-less"



2008 Singles Retreat  
**May 17-18**  
Central Hills, Kosciusko

Registration: **Saturday, 1:30 p.m.**

Cost: **Unit A - \$45**

2-4 persons with a private  
bath, includes linens

**Unit B - \$35**

4-10 individuals with shared  
bath, includes linens

**Commuter - \$10**

Saturday activities/BBQ

Send registration fee to:

MBCB - Conference

Ministry Office

P.O. Box 530

Jackson, MS 39205

For more information call: **800-748-1651**

Receive a t-shirt when you register by May 1. **Deadline to register is May 12.**

July 14-16, 2008  
Mississippi College

SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN STUDENTS  
UNITED WITH PURPOSE AND PASSION

PREPARE YOURSelves TO GO

2008  
PREACHING

FEATURED  
PRESENTER  
**Jerry Songer**

*Interim pastor  
First Baptist Church  
Orangeburg, S.C.*

**Monday, April 21**  
First Baptist Church  
Louisville

**Tuesday, April 22**  
First Baptist Church  
Natchez

For more information, contact:  
(601) 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651,  
ext. 305, or kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

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BOYS AND GIRLS  
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GRADES 3-7**



Cost \$95  
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due with  
preregistration

Bible study, Bible memorization, Bible skill,  
worship, campfire service, morning watch,  
time with Southern Baptist missionaries,  
horseback riding,  
rifle range [safety/marksmanship],  
swimming, canoeing, four-square  
**... and much more!**

*Each church group must have an adult  
male counselor for every six boys (or por-  
tion thereof) and an adult female coun-  
selor for every six girls (or portion there-  
of). Campers are together with the coun-  
selors from their church all during camp.*

Camp begins with check-in at 2 p.m., Monday,  
June 30, and ends at noon on Wednesday, July 2.

For more info, contact the Discipleship and Family  
Ministry Department  
601-292-3287 or dhicks@mbcb.org

## Hot Topics Discussions for Student Ministers

**"Hanging on when the bottom drops out"**

**Allen Jackson**, NOBTS (Clarksdale & Harrisburg)

**Ken Hall**, MBCB (McLaurin Heights, Brookhaven & Wiggins)

**"The student ministers role in Sunday School"**

**Bruce Edwards**, Tennessee Baptist  
Convention (Clarksdale & Harrisburg)

**Andy Mullins**, Student Minister, MHBC  
(McLaurin Heights, Brookhaven & Wiggins)

**Monday, May 12**, Clarksdale BC  
**Tuesday, May 13**, Harrisburg BC, Tupelo  
**Monday, May 19**, McLaurin Heights BC, Pearl  
**Tuesday, May 20**, FBC, Brookhaven  
**Thursday, May 22**, FBC, Wiggins

Schedule (all locations)		7:30	Break
6:00 p.m.	Light Supper	7:45	Session II
6:30	Session I	8:45	Dismiss

For info, contact the Sunday School Dept.: 601-292-3320,  
1-800-748-1651, ext. 320, or hdedmon@mbcb.org



# "Running the Race"

EAST MISSISSIPPI

## Sisters Who Really Care Rally

SATURDAY, MAY 17  
9 A.M. - 1 P.M.  
LAUDERDALE  
ASSOCIATION  
OFFICE  
5521 CLINTON ST.  
MARION, MISS.



Enjoy a Saturday with Sisters – Inspiring worship, share, prayer and a fun teatime are all planned especially for you! Don't miss it! Casual attire.

**Cost: Bring someone with you**

For more information, contact Kathy Burns at MS wMu, 1-800-748-1651, ext. 324, or [kburns@mbcb.org](mailto:kburns@mbcb.org)

## PRESCHOOL & CHILDREN'S MINISTER RETREAT



RELAX ... RECHARGE ... REGROUP

**MAY 1-2, 2008**

### Topics & Activities include:

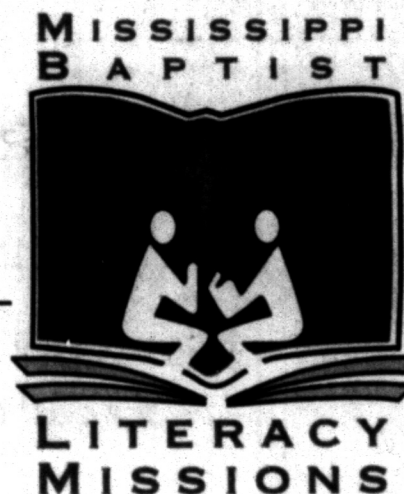
- Balancing Life with Ministry
- Creative Ways to Communicate in Today's World
- Forum to share with other ministers
- Fellowship activities for networking

Patterson Place / Camp Garaywa  
Registration, Thursday / 1 p.m.  
Conference begins at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday and ends at noon on Friday

For more info: Sunday School Department:  
601-292-3294 or [aboydstun@mbcb.org](mailto:aboydstun@mbcb.org)

## State Literacy Missions Conference

July 17-19, 2008  
Crossgates BC  
Brandon, Miss.



### Basic Workshops in:

- English as a Second Language
- Adult Reading and Writing
- Tutoring Children and Youth

Seminars for those already working in a literacy ministry or wanting to begin.

### Examples of seminar topics:

- Building Bridges to the Ethnic Community through ESL
- Effective Strategies for Sharing Christ with a Muslim
- 7 Potpourri of my Most Popular ESL Techniques
- Why Saying the 14th and 15th Letters of the Alphabet Can Be Important! (A Lesson in Christian Time Management)

### Special Guests:

**Gayle Leininger**, recently retired NAMB Literacy Missions Missionary

**Kendale Moore**, current NAMB Literacy Missions Missionary

For more information and registration form contact:

**Alicia Hatch or Paula Smith**

MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205  
[ahatch@mbcb.org](mailto:ahatch@mbcb.org) or [psmith@mbcb.org](mailto:psmith@mbcb.org)  
1-800-748-1651

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - A SAGE EVENT IS COMING TO A CITY NEAR YOU

# simplicity

**Cost: \$40** early registration rate  
includes all conference materials and a bag full of fun stuff

GET ALL OF YOUR REGISTRATION FACTS AT: [WWW.SAGEMINISTRIES.ORG](http://WWW.SAGEMINISTRIES.ORG)



## Pray this day for...

April 18 - May 1, 2008

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

*"God's ultimate goal is to uphold and display the glory of His name ...  
A world Christian is someone who is so gripped by the glory of God  
... that he chooses to align himself with God's mission ..."*

*John Piper*

(1) Life Commitment Sunday (P/LD Emphasis); (2) The London Team asks you to begin praying for young people who will be in parts of the city in July for an outreach called "1 Witness." Please pray for each person's preparation as they draw closer to the Lord in the coming months.

Thank you for asking the Lord to provide a full-time Thai co-worker to work alongside a couple on the Southern Thai Team who recently moved to southern Thailand. W. a Thai woman, is now partnering with this couple. Pray that God's Spirit will work in the hearts of these people and draw them to Himself.

(1) VBS Church Leadership Training, North Oxford BC, Oxford; FBC, Natchez (SS); (2) Preaching Conference, FBC, Louisville (P/LD); (3) Four young women on the Hands on West Africa Team have arrived in Niger and are learning the local language. Pray for them as they move into their houses in two different villages.

Muslims in Russia - A worker writes: "Some believing friends stayed in J and S's house while they were out of town. They ended up in finding a call from Grandpa M. 'Do you believe?' 'Yes' one of the sisters answered. He went on, 'Before, I did not believe at all. I think I am close to believing.' Pray that he will bend his knee before Jesus in worship."

(1) VBS Church Leadership Training, Gaston BC, Booneville; FBC, Belzoni; FBC, Purvis (SS); (2) Preaching Conference, FBC, Natchez (P/LD); (3) Pray for the administration office staff in Iringa, Tanzania, to have wisdom in making decisions in meeting the current financial needs and in planning for future needs for curriculum supplies.

"Where will I go after death?" This was a question TS needed answered, but his Hindu religion could not provide the answer. After hearing the gospel in 1993, TS gave his life to Jesus Christ even in the midst of great social pressure. TS now says that God has called him to the ministry of preaching and evangelism, "until my life is finished."

Malawi missionaries, Mat and Janet Lawrence, work with young people in the Lilongwe district. Pray for those who belong to Christ to have an urgent desire to share with those who are lost. Ask God to provide all the resources needed.

This time of year, many American high school students face a key decision about college. Please intercede for MLs who will soon leave West Africa to begin college. Pray that they will feel God's peace as they leave families and friends. Ask God to guide them as they enter a new culture in the U.S. Pray that they will continue to be faithful to their Savior.

(1) VBS Church Leadership Training, Clarksdale BC, Clarksdale; FBC, Meridian (SS); (2) Missionary Parent Fellowship National Meeting, Missionary Learning Center, Richmond, Va. (WMU).

(1) Edwina Robinson Special Day Offering Emphasis (WMU Emphasis); (2) Preschool Children's Minister's Retreat, Garaywa, Clinton (Preschool/Children's Team Ministry); (3) Sage Girls Conference (grades 7-12), FBC, Jackson, 1st-2nd (SS).

(1) Associational Missions Leadership Training, Garaywa, Clinton, 18th-19th WMU; (2) State Handbell Festival, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko, 18th-19th (CM); (3) Pray that the believers of Southern Europe will "catch a vision" for reaching their own people.

(1) Children and Youth Bible Drill Tournament, FBC, Clinton, (D&FM); (2) Pray for the Muslims in Berlin, asking that they will be open to hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray that many will have an open mind and be willing to speak to Christians in Berlin about Jesus Christ. There are approximately 350,000 Muslims in the city.

(1) State Handbell Festival, FBC, Natchez, 25th-26th (CM); (2) Chaplains' Spring Retreat, Camp Garaywa, Patterson Place, Clinton, 25th-26th (MM).

(1) State Speakers Tournament, Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain (D&FM); (2) Believers in Malaysia are asking God on a weekly basis to send revival to the church. The Lord wants to pour out His blessings on Malaysia through His people. Join with them in asking God to convict believers of sin.



## Mississippi Family FEST on the Gulf Coast July 26-30, 2008

**Location:** Jackson County

**Cost:** \$25 per person (\$50 maximum for immediate family members), includes program fee, t-shirt, breakfast and lunch meals, plus dinner on Wednesday evening.

**Types of Ministries:** Light Construction/Painting, Community Service & Outreach, Children's Ministries, Acts of Kindness

**How to Register:** Request a registration packet by calling MS WMU at 800-748-1651, ext. 317, or E-mail [lmiller@mbcb.org](mailto:lmiller@mbcb.org).

This event is co-sponsored by the Family Ministry Team, Men's Ministry, Mississippi WMU, Jackson Association, and participating local churches.

For more information, please contact Don Gann ([dgann@mbcb.org](mailto:dgann@mbcb.org)) in Men's Ministry or Tammy Anderson ([tanderson@mbcb.org](mailto:tanderson@mbcb.org)) in Mississippi WMU at 800-748-1651.

## Senior Adult Retreats

### I. May 19-20 at Harrisburg BC, Tupelo

**Speaker:** Henry Lyons, Montgomery, Ala.,  
Former ABCB senior adult consultant and  
former pastor of FBC, Salem

**Choirs:**

19th - Reflections, FBC, Jackson  
20th - Trinity Singers, Southaven

**Gatherings:**

19th - Songs through the Decades  
Eva Hart, FBC, Jackson  
20th - R.L. & Beth Sigest  
Mini Concert, Yazoo City

### II. May 22-23 at FBC, Cleveland

**Speaker:** Chuck Kelley  
President of NOBTS

**Choirs:**

22nd - Parkway Singers, Clinton  
23rd - Ridgecrest Choir, Madison

**Gatherings:**

22nd - Him Singers, Raymond  
23rd - Irene Martin, Pianist  
Mickey Bounds, Cajun Preacher

For info: 601-292-3373 or [gshows@MBCB.org](mailto:gshows@MBCB.org)

### III. May 26-27 at Poplar Springs Drive BC, Meridian

**Speaker:** Phil Waldrop, Alabama  
Founder of Celebrations for Seniors

**Choirs:**

26th - Forest Senior Adult Choir  
27th - FBC, Magee

**Gatherings:**

26th - Wayne Pinkerton  
Motown Music, MBCB  
27th - Jerry Watts, "Humor"

### IV. September 25-26 at FBC, McComb

**Speaker:** Sonny Adkins  
Former state evangelism director

**Choirs:**

25th - FBC Senior Adult Choir, Pascagoula  
26th - Lamar County Association Choir

**Gatherings:**

25th - "Professor Cornpone"  
Joseph Harris, Ellisville  
26th - Piano/organ duet  
Irene Martin and Ed Sudduth

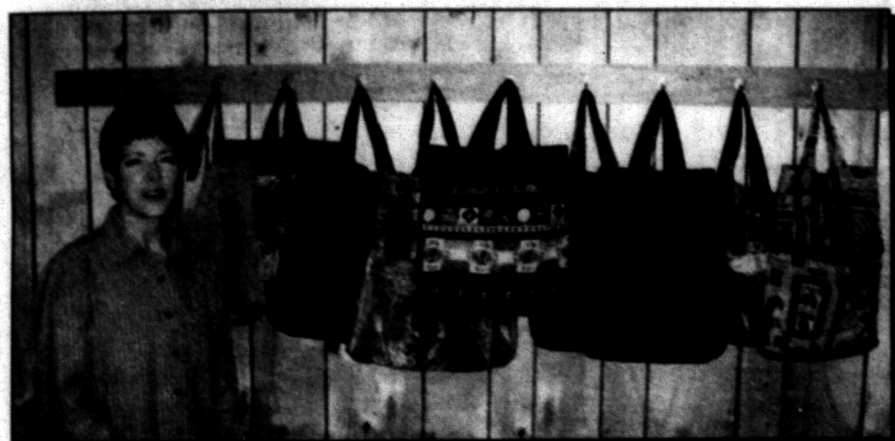
# HOUSE TOPS



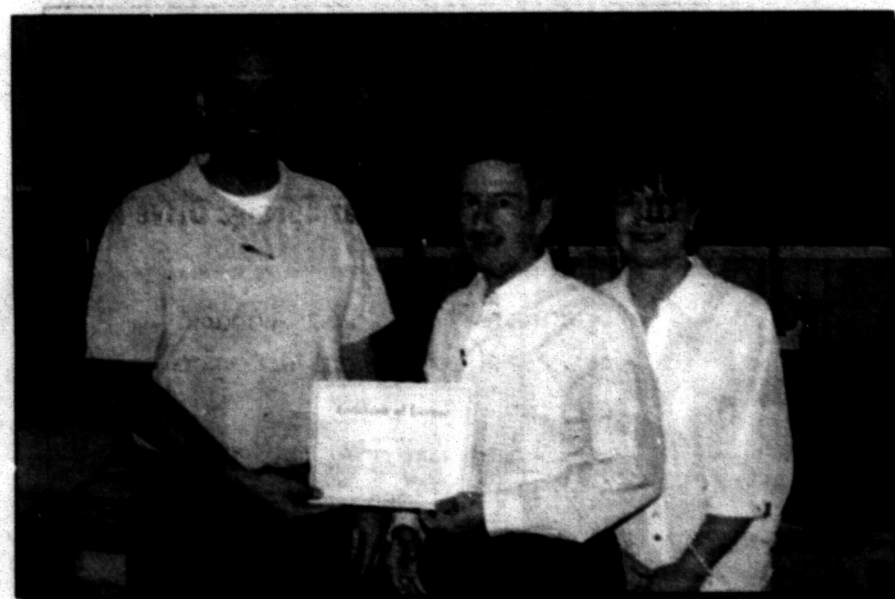
## JUST FOR THE RECORD



10. Easter cross, First Church, Plantersville



11. Sylva Rena Church, Water Valley



12. Walker ordination, First Church, Bude



13. Ribbon cutting, Ridglea Heights Church

11. The Sylva Rena Church, Water Valley, Women on Mission and ladies sewing group made school bags for Baptist Medical and Dental Mission International in Nicaragua, to be sent to Mt. Olivet School, Nicaragua.

12. First Church, Bude, licensed Carroll Walker to the gospel ministry Mar. 30. He is available for pulpit supply or any speaking engagement. Shown are pastor Brad Moak, Walker, and Cindy Walker.

13. Ridglea Heights Church, Moss Point, dedicated its new multi-purpose facility Mar. 30. Shown are the participants in the ribbon cutting.

14. Ridglea Heights Church, Moss Point, ordained Bryan Ciriot to the gospel ministry Feb. 24.

15. Freedonia Church, New Albany recognized its Bible drillers. Shown are the participants.

16. The children of Mt. Zion Church, Florence, released balloons Easter in celebration of Jesus who rose from the grave. Shown are the participants.

17. The Christian Sportsmen Fellowship Chapter of Maranatha Church, Mize, will host a wild game supper Apr. 30, 6:30 p.m. Paul Ott, speaker. Free admission.

18. Steele Church, Forest, hosted Acteens Day in February. The girls prayed for missionaries, participated in a mission project, listened to missionary Laura Young share her ministry, played games, and had lunch. The group raised \$200 to buy books for missionary to India, Mandy Kellum.

19. First Church, Helena, held its annual Easter egg hunt Mar. 22. The children hunted eggs and were taught the meaning of Easter. Three children accepted Christ.

20. Faith Church, Ovette, hosts family game night the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month, 6 p.m. For more information, call pastor James Balliet, (601) 425-0452.

21. Clay Anthony, pastor of Richmond Church, Tupelo, has published a book, Prove Thyself a Man, written to help fathers guide their sons to become strong Christian men. For more information, visit [www.provethyselfaman.com](http://www.provethyselfaman.com).



15. Freedonia Church youth Bible drillers (Photo 1)



15. Freedonia Church children's Bible drillers (Photo 2)



16. Mt. Zion Church, Florence



19. First Church, Helena



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS



# Missionaries: African nation on 'knife's edge' as anxiety grows

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptist missionaries and local Baptists in Zimbabwe are appealing for prayer amid mounting tensions as the country's electoral commission delays release of March 29 election results.

Many of the country's residents are nervous and angry about the delayed outcome as the country's economy spirals out of control. There also have been reports of militants raiding white-owned rural farms.

"There is an uneasy calm and a growing sense of frustration... as we await news of the outcome of elections," said one International Mission Board missionary in the capital city of Harare. "The people's lack of access to media that they consider reliable is keeping [them] on a knife's edge emotionally."

Meanwhile, people struggle to get by as living conditions worsen. "Once some of

the best in Africa, the roads are beginning to wear thin," the missionary said. "Some high-density areas do without water for weeks on end."

As inflation continues to swell, people are struggling to have even simple necessities. Buying a loaf of bread, a bottle of milk or a repair part from the hardware store has become nearly impossible in some places. Cornmeal can be found only on the black market. Some gas stations have been out of fuel for weeks.

"People just can't keep up," said another missionary in Bulawayo. "Wages don't go up fast enough, and when they do, prices go up faster. This has been going on at this pace since the beginning of the year."

Schools turned away students after teachers went on strike because of low wages. Hospitals struggle to provide simple things such as running water or aspirin.

"How do you react when you are told you need a shot of medicine and then you are told by the doctor to go find

your own medicine and bring it back so he can give you the shot?" a missionary asked.

The country's troubles also are taking a toll on pastors. Finding ministry supplies and materials is a constant challenge. Many of the pastors are ministering to the needs of orphans and widows in the area in spite of their own hardships.

"People are hungry for God and for understanding the circumstances that we are in," one missionary said. "[We] lead Bible studies, and those involved really want to have these times of sharing and hearing from God and learning more about trusting Him even when circumstances are hard to understand."

Missionaries ask Southern Baptists to continue praying for a peaceful resolution to the election stalemate and economic woes. "Pray for wisdom for our missionaries as we seek to give counsel and assistance to those most in need," the missionary said.



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**CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH**, Brookhaven, Miss., is currently accepting resumes for a full-time minister of music/outreach. Please send resumes to 749 North Jackson Street, Brookhaven, MS 39601 or email to questions@cbcbrookhaven.org.

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**WANTED: PINEVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH**, Clinton, MS is seeking individual for part-time interim minister of music or part-time minister of music for blended Worship service. Please send resume to Pineview Baptist Church, 1288 Clinton-Raymond Road, Clinton, MS 39056 or email to Pineviewbc@bell-south.net. Or fax your resume to 601-924-8378.

**UNION BAPTIST CHURCH, SEMINARY**, Miss., is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resumes to John Folkes, 144 Homer Folkes Road, Seminary, MS 39479.

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## REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

**Ramah Church, McCall Creek:** Homecoming, Apr. 20; services, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds. Pat Lofton, speaker.

**Morgan Chapel Church,** Sturgis: 100th anniversary, May 3-4; Sat., 4-7 p.m.; Sun., 10:30 a.m.; Ed Deuschle, speaker.

**Grace Church, Calhoun City:** Revival, Apr. 27-May 2; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch, and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Michael Waldroff, speaker; Lowery Guest, music; Carl Morris, pastor.

**Shiloh Church, Houlika:** Revival, Apr. 20-23; Sun., 11 a.m., and nightly, 7 p.m.; Earl Barron, speaker; David McGehee, music.

**Parkway Church, Morton:** Apr. 27-30; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ray Ingram, Frank Morgan, Jerry Holmes, Tommy Miles, speakers; John T. Miles, pastor.

**Silver Springs Church, Osyka:** Homecoming and 125th anniversary, Apr. 27; services, 10 a.m.-noon, followed by dinner on the grounds; Donnie Bond, speaker.

**Northcrest Church, Meridian:** Revival, Apr. 27-30; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Don Boone, speaker; Ronnie

Cottingham, music; Charles Davis, pastor.

**Willow Grove Church, Collins:** Revival, Apr. 27-30; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Sonny Adkins, speaker; Daniel Lee, music; Rocky Holston, pastor.

**Fernwood Church, Gulfport:** Revival, Apr. 25-27; Fri., 6:30 p.m.; Sat., 6 p.m. with fellowship; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Ken Fryer, speaker; Jim Kultau, pastor.

**Steele Church, Forest:** Revival, Apr. 20-23; Sun., 10 a.m., followed by potluck lunch and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Randall Creel, speaker; Stacy Monk, music; Reggie Williams, pastor.

**Bethsaida Church, Philadelphia:** 125th anniversary and homecoming, Apr. 26-27; Sat., fellowship reception, 4 p.m.; Sun., services and cemetery association meeting, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Windal Jones, speaker.

**Morrison Heights Church, Clinton:** 50th anniversary, June 13-15; Fri., dinner, Hampstead Campus, 6 p.m.; worship, 7:30 p.m.; Sat., charter member and former staff brunch, 10 a.m.; community celebration, 1-4 p.m.; youth rally, 7 p.m.; Sun., worship, 10 a.m., followed by lunch on the grounds.

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# Former U.S. Senator Bob Dole visits Miss. College

CLINTON (Special) — White House politics, virtues like sacrifice and courage, plus an assortment of funny one-liners were all part of former U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole's speech at Mississippi College (MC) on March 31.

After more than 500 guests watched the American political legend deliver his remarks, Dole fielded questions from the MC audience. When asked what 71-year-old Republican presidential candidate John McCain could do about trying to resolve concerns about his age, Dole joked: "I'll run as his vice president."

The 84-year-old former Kansas senator, who served with McCain for a decade on Capitol Hill, headlined MC's first spring scholarship banquet — part of MC's \$65 million Growing the Vision campaign for scholarships, academic needs, and building projects.

Announced in fall 2006, the MC campaign has raised more than \$60 million. The banquet attracted \$211,000 in donations to exceed a goal of \$200,000.

During his evening speech at the B.C. Rogers Student Center and earlier during a press conference at Alumni Hall, Dole declared the presidential race is "very winnable" for McCain when November's general election rolls around.

Now the counsel at a Washington law firm, the Kansan noted "the halo is fading a bit" for Democratic U.S. Sen. Barack Obama, who leads rival Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York in delegate counts and national polls. He said Obama is strong in some sectors, calling him "the pied piper of the younger generation."

Still, McCain has solid support among independent voters, he said. Whether the candidate is Obama or Clinton, Dole is sure McCain will defeat either one in Mississippi in November.

Dole's support goes back generations. Dole recalled he wore his bracelet when McCain was "a guest at the Hanoi Hilton," referring to his five-plus years as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam.

A tireless advocate for millions of American military veterans for years, Dole is familiar with the traumas and sacrifices of war. Twice decorated for heroism during World War II, Dole has stayed active in recent years as chairman of the National World War II Memorial.

He invited the MC audience to visit the memorial in Washington to witness the legacy of their sacrifice for freedom. For those who don't make the trip, Dole encouraged Mississippians to visit a hospital or nursing home to thank a veteran for their service.

Part of what journalist Tom Brokaw referred to as America's "greatest generation," Dole emphasized that Americans don't need to wear a uniform to make sacrifices or serve their country.



DOLE AT MC — Former U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (left) of Kansas talks with Mississippi Lt. Governor Phil Bryant prior to dinner being served March 31 at the inaugural spring scholarship banquet on the campus of Mississippi College (MC) in Clinton. Bryant, in his first term as lt. governor, is an MC graduate. (Special photo courtesy of MC)

"Somebody is always making sacrifices," Dole told the crowd in Anderson Hall as they watched him on stage and on two giant video screens. It could be the sacrifice of parents sending their children to college or caring for a loved one in need, he said.

Dole's visit to 4,600-student MC "is an honor for us," President Lee Royce told news reporters at Alumni Hall. Royce referred to Dole "one of America's leading statesmen," who remains "as witty and wise as ever."

During the banquet, Royce served in a new capacity: as the one who served up the audience's questions on a smorgasbord of topics to the guest speaker.

Dole was asked what he would have done differently against rival Bill Clinton in the 1996 presidential race. "I'd have won," Dole responded.

A University of Kansas alum and basketball fan, he also was asked to predict the outcome of the NCAA basketball tournament semifinal game between his alma mater and the University of North Carolina. Expressing mixed feelings, he admitted his wife Elizabeth, a North

Carolina senator, is up for re-election.

Still registered to vote in his native Kansas, Dole played it safe. "It will be a tough game," he said. Kansas defeated North Carolina 84-66 and went on to win the national championship by downing the University of Memphis 75-68 in overtime.

Dole sees education sticking around as the nation's No. 1 issue. That was the case when the Russell, Kansas, native first entered Congress decades ago. "Education is our most important challenge in America," he pointed out.

Mississippi Lt. Gov. Phil Bryant, an MC graduate, introduced Dole. Members of the audience saluted Dole with a standing ovation.

Mississippi College Lee Royce said the remarkable evening on the Clinton campus is the first in what should become an annual event for the Baptist-affiliated university. Members of the MC Board of Trustees — especially planning committee chairman Bill Sones of Brookhaven — along with help from an army of student volunteers, staff, and others in the MC family made it all possible, he said.

## William Carey Univ. breaks ground for Gulf Coast campus

GULFPORT (Special) — William Carey University (WCU) officials and representatives of Tradition Properties, Inc. broke ground April 7 during ceremonies held on the new WCU Tradition Campus located between Highway 67 and State Road 605 in Harrison County.

Situated in the 4,800-acre Tradition planned community, the ceremony marked the first phase of construction for the new campus of the Baptist-affiliated university headquartered in Hattiesburg. The university currently operates its coast campus in temporary facilities at its 20-acre beachfront location on Highway 90 in Gulfport, which was devastated by Hurricane Katrina. The school's trustees decided to put the beachfront property up for sale after the hurricane.

The new Tradition campus is scheduled to begin operation in the fall of 2009. Initial construction will begin on a 30-acre parcel of land, with 20 acres reserved for the university's future expansion. The new campus will initially serve 750 students and grow to accommodate 3,000 students over the next 10 years.

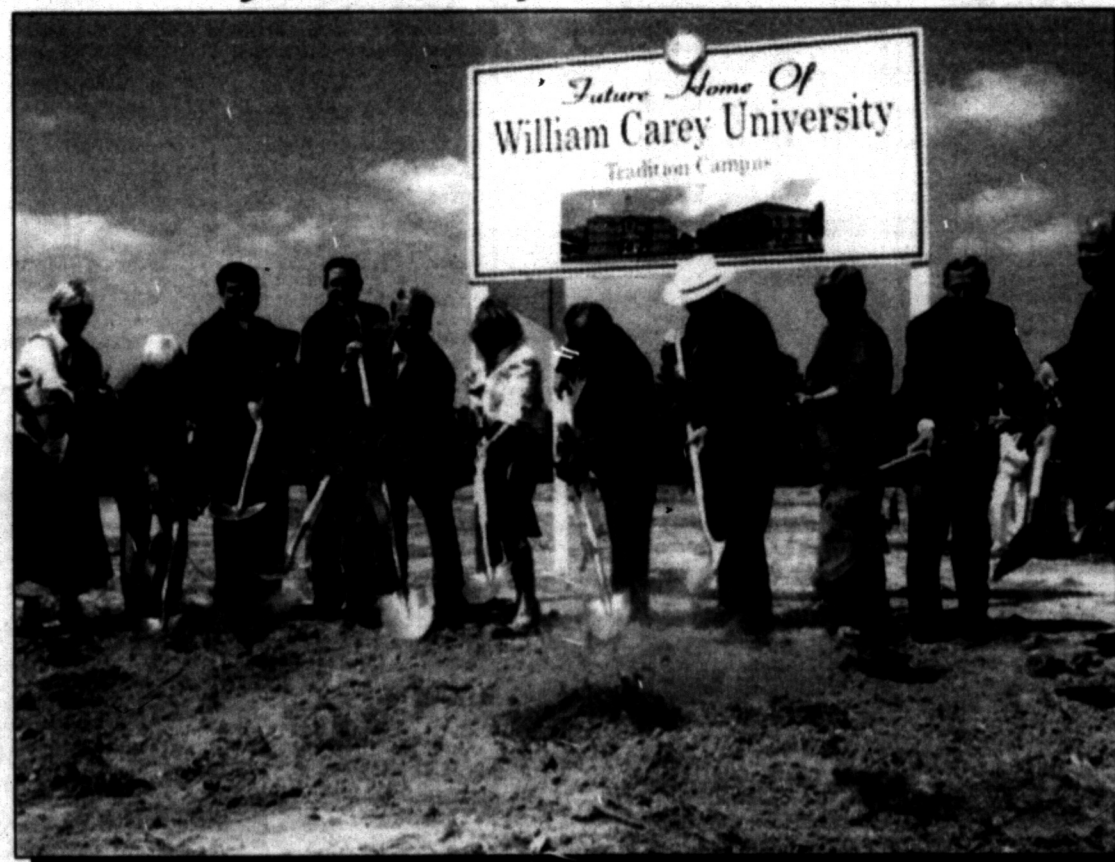
The architect is Landry and Lewis Architects and the contractor is Hanco Corporation, both of Hattiesburg.

"Not only will the new campus be better protected from future storms, but our students, faculty, and staff will also be part of a vibrant and growing community," said WCU President Tommy King.

William Carey University joins Biloxi Regional Medical Center and St. Patrick High School, whose facilities will also be constructed in the Tradition community. St. Patrick, the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi's new consolidated high school, will open in August 2009 with 650 students. Biloxi Regional Medical Center will open a 5,000 square foot Family Care Clinic in Tradition's Village Center in 2008 and a Medical Office Building in Tradition's Town Center by 2009.

William Carey University was founded in 1906 as South Mississippi College, later named Mississippi's Woman's College and then William Carey College.

The school offers a wide variety of academic programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels, including fine arts, business administration, education, psychology and nursing. The school currently operates facilities in Hattiesburg, New Orleans, and Gulfport. For more information call (228) 897-7100. Web site: [www.wmcarey.edu](http://www.wmcarey.edu).



William Carey University groundbreaking



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MAR. 22-APR. 8, 2008

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## The Baptist Children's Village

## 2008 Mother's Day Offering

### Celebrating Ministry Expansion

Now Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, "Oh that You would bless me indeed and enlarge my border, and that Your hand might be with me, and that You would keep [me] from harm that [it] may not pain me!" And God granted him what he requested. ~ 1 Chronicles 4:10

Since 1897 The Baptist Children's Village has been available in all 82 counties in Mississippi. Now, in 2008 the ministry is more accessible than ever to children and their families who need us. The anticipated addition of two new campuses positions us within 50 miles of 74 counties and 75 miles of 81 counties.

Just as the Lord protected Jabez and blessed him with an enlarged territory to meet his needs, so has the Lord continually enlarged the territory of The Baptist Children's Village to meet very specific needs for Mississippi children and families.

We acknowledge His generous blessing as we approach this annual Mother's Day offering and praise Him for His great wisdom and provision!

To order BCV Mother's Day Offering envelopes and bulletin inserts please go to:  
[www.baptistchildrensvillage.com](http://www.baptistchildrensvillage.com) or call 601-922-2242.

BCV MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING GOAL

\$390,000



## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

### Pioneers in the Covenant: Radical Endurance through Opposition

Genesis 26:1-3, 6, 12-22

By Rick Henson

Recently I re-read a book published in 1998. The author warned that gas could get as high as \$2 a gallon. I wish. Gas prices change daily, mostly upward. The latest high-tech toys of today will be the low-tech leftovers of next year. Even our contemporary songs in worship change quicker than a politician changes his mind. We live in an ever-changing world.

If we are not careful, we will transfer this change mentality to our decision-making processes and our lifestyles. "Things don't work out at home? Get a divorce. Don't like the boss? Change companies. School is tough? Drop out. Church members won't do what I say? Change churches."

Isaac could have dropped

out when he faced opposition. God blessed Isaac with great wealth; though with the wealth came the envy of the Philistines. When a famine came to the land of Canaan, God told Isaac to remain there, so he did. Isaac obeyed God and trusted His leadership, as did his father Abraham. God blessed Isaac so much that the King of the Philistines feared him and asked him to leave. He simply moved over a piece and prospered there. The entire story is in Genesis 26:1-22.

When Isaac's men dug a well in this new location, the Philistine herdsmen nearby were jealous and took it over. Isaac moved over and had his men dig another well. The Philistines did the same thing

once more. Isaac just moved again, had his men dig another well and prospered there.

After the Philistine herdsmen took over the second well, "He moved from there and dug another, and they did not quarrel over it. He named it Open Spaces and said, 'For now the LORD has made room for us, and we will be fruitful in the land.'" Genesis 26:22. Isaac did not respond to the Philistines with arguments or anger. He quietly moved and prospered, for he understood that his provision came from the Lord and not from a well. The Philistines were not happy when Isaac prospered. They asked him to leave. When Jesus cast the demons out of the man in the Gerasenes region in Mark 5, the people from the nearby town asked Jesus to leave. They were more comfortable with a demon-possessed man in their midst than the Son of Man. The town's people were more accepting of the power of Satan than the power of God.



Henson

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### When All Hope Seems Lost

Genesis 39:21, 40:2-3, 5-15, 20-23

By Marion Duncan

Joseph was unjustly imprisoned, but the Lord was with him and gave him favor in the eyes of the warden who rested in the assurance that "the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did." (Genesis 39:21-23)

Pharaoh became angry at two of his officials—the chief cupbearer and the chief baker—and put them in custody in the house of Potiphar where Joseph was also confined. The cup bearer, or butler, was not only the cup bearer, but overseer of the royal vineyards, as well as the cellars and probably had hundreds of people under him. The baker, or cook, directed every thing relating to the providing and preparing of meats for the royal table. Both officers were persons of great rank and

importance because of the confidential nature of their employment and their access to the royal presence. There is much conjecture concerning the offense of the servants of Pharaoh. Some think it as grave as an attempt on his life, while others think it was no more than a fly in his cup. Whatever the offense, according to God's plan, Joseph was assigned the care of the two officials. (40:4) High places are slippery places; nothing is more uncertain than politically charged positions. People who love God and make His favor their happiness and His service their mandate will find Him faithful and just in all things. (Matt. 25:21) Notice the trust and confidence Joseph has gained in the eyes of the warden and Potiphar. Joseph is in charge of the prison and prison-



Duncan

ers. Would Potiphar release him if it were not for the wrath of his wife? John the Baptist lost his head to please Herodias.

Some time later, Joseph found the two prisoners sad and dejected, not because they were in prison, but because they did not have an interpreter for their dreams—dreams God had put in their heads for a specific reason. The Old Testament distinguishes between regular dreams and dreams that are given for divine revelation. (Numbers 12:6) Note how "revelation without understanding leads to fear and sadness." (Experiencing God Study Bible) These dreams are indicative of God's using those who do not know and do not fear Him to accomplish His purpose. Joseph concerned himself with their sorrow and inquired into the reason for it. Common suffering helps work compassion in us toward those who need comfort. (Eccl. 4:1; Phil. 2:4) Joseph pointed the two prisoners to God who is the

designer and giver of dreams and must have the praise and glory for all the gifts of prophecy that come from them. (Isaiah 46:10; Daniel 2:30)

The cup bearer told Joseph his dream (40:9-11), and Joseph interpreted it to mean that in three days he would be restored to his position as Pharaoh's cup bearer. (40:12-13) Following his joyful announcement, Joseph appealed to Pharaoh's officer to use his influence to give him freedom. Hearing the promising interpretation of the first dream, the baker tells Joseph about his dream. Joseph told the baker that his dream meant that in three days he would be beheaded and his body hanged in a tree for the birds to eat. Doubtless, Joseph did not want to communicate such a terrible pronouncement to the baker, but he was compelled to tell him the truth as God had revealed it to him.

On the third day, the cup bearer and the baker were present at the feast given in honor of Pharaoh's birthday. It was a time-honored custom that prisoners were released

stayed in Canaan because God told him to stay. Immediately after these events, God confirmed His covenant with Isaac as He had with Abraham. God spoke to Isaac after his obedience and his demonstration of godliness.

Will you persevere in the face of opposition, or will you wilt when you are criticized? Do you require the praise of man, or do you desire the will of the Father? Isaac demonstrated both his faith in the Father's provision, and his strength of character when he was mistreated. How will you react when you are mistreated?

Romans 10:9 reads, "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved." The word "Lord" in this verse means slave owner. If Jesus is our Lord, then we are His servants. Are you a servant? You know whether you are a servant or not by how you react when you are treated like one.

Henson is pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon

at such festive celebrations. (Luke 23:15-25) Pharaoh recognized them in the presence of his officials and restored the cup bearer to his former position, but he ordered that the baker be hanged just as Joseph had said it would happen in his interpretation. The chief cup bearer, however, did not remember Joseph. When he was back in his comfort zone and no longer fearing for his life, he did not think of anyone but himself.

Joseph's persistent faith was encouraged by the correctness of his interpretation of the two dreams, and not destroyed by his circumstances. His love for God was faithful and true and unaffected when human flesh failed him. His hope was deferred, but not lost. "Hope deferred makes the heart sick. . . ." (Proverbs 13:12) Gloriously, he knew that one day God would fulfill His Word concerning him.

Duncan is wMu director at First Church, Starkville

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will

be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

# The Baptist Record

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be

clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



# Texas Baptist church plays support role in FDLS raid

ELDORADO, Texas (BP) — A Southern Baptist congregation housed about 80 women and children April 4-6 after a raid on the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (FLDS) near Eldorado, Texas.

Members of First Church in Eldorado embraced the opportunity to minister in Christ's name, pastor Andy Anderson said. First Church also loaned the state of Texas the use of two 25-seat church buses to help transport more than 180 women and children from the 1,619-acre polygamist compound.

"Our folks were eager to step in, and not just our folks, but the entire community," Anderson said. "We have church members who provided a large bulk of the money needed [to buy food]. We also had a huge outpouring from the community."

In addition to church help, the pastor said a statewide grocery chain provided food, while Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo about 45 miles north sent nearly 200 cots to Eldorado.

First Church's pastor received a call the morning of April 4 from Schleicher County Sheriff David Doran, alerting him that there would be a need to transport people from the compound of the sect that broke away from the Mormon Church. FLDS leader Warren Jeffs was convicted last year of two counts of being an accomplice to a rape for his role in arranging and performing a marriage between a male follower and his underage cousin.

Similar reports apparently triggered the Texas raid. The Salt Lake City Tribune reported April 6 that authorities had issued a warrant for Dale Barlow, who is being investigated for marrying and impregnating a 16-year-old girl in Eldorado.

The Eldorado Success newspaper reported in May 2004 that Jeffs' flock was in the midst of a major relocation from the Utah-Arizona border to this southwest Texas town of 2,000, located about 250 miles west of San Antonio.

Known as the YFZ Ranch, the newspaper said the FLDS purchased the property under a shell company's name and told local residents it would be used as a corporate hunting retreat.

Initial news reports indicated 183 women and children were located at the compound. However, the Success reported the morning of April 7 that Texas' Child Protective Services (CPS) now acknowledges relocating 219 residents — 159 children and 60 adults.

Anderson said he and other church members spent all day April 4 and 5 shuttling women and children from the YFZ ranch to the Schleicher County Civic Center or First Church.

Approximately 100 residents were taken to the civic center and the remainder went to the church's fellowship hall, the pastor said. They stayed at the two venues until noon on April 6, when state authorities transported them to Fort Concho, a historical site in San Angelo, he said.

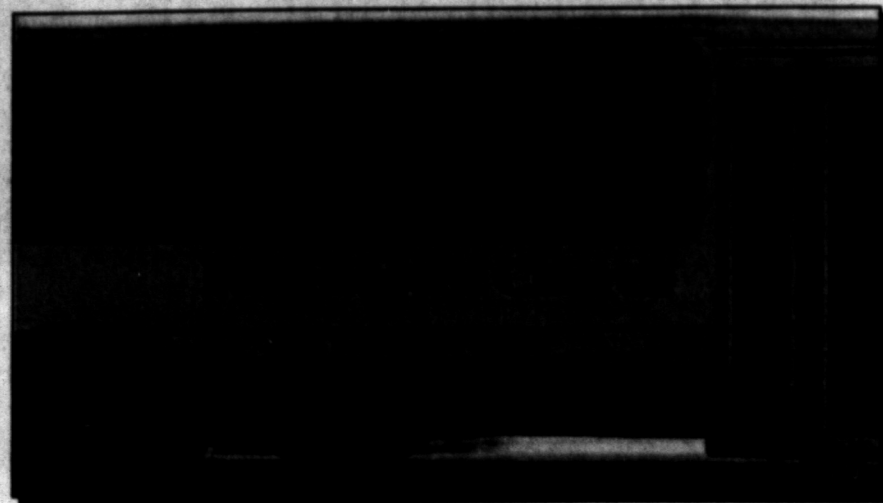
The old pioneer days fort contains adequate housing for the women and children, Anderson added.

In addition to First Church, members of Community Church provided food and sent members to help with cooking, the pastor said, and members of First United Methodist Church and Eldorado Church of Christ also played an active role in the ministry effort.

The churches were limited to providing food and shelter, with personal contact handled by CPS staff members, Anderson said.

"I think it was for privacy issues, to allow the women and children to feel comfortable [and] so they wouldn't feel they were in a fishbowl," he pointed out. "They were obviously tense and under stress but overall, I was impressed with the women. They held up well and showed good parenting." Although First Church members willingly stepped in to help, the effort caused cancellation of the church's Sunday School classes. Because of a mistaken belief that Sunday services also wouldn't be held, their normal attendance of 140 was down about 30 people, Anderson said.

This isn't the first time the Baptist General Convention of Texas church has been in the media spotlight. Numerous reporters descended on the town after a bus accident in Louisiana in October 2003 killed eight senior adults who were on a First Church-sponsored trip to historic sites across the Southeast.



RESCUE IN PROGRESS — CNN cable news viewers across the country saw footage of church buses from First Church in Eldorado, Texas, as part of the weekend ferrying of women and children from a polygamist compound where physical and sexual abuse allegedly occurred. First Church also housed about 80 women and children who were removed from the compound. (BP photo)

## College News

1. Mississippi College President Lee Royce and Tougaloo College President Beverly Hogan will serve as co-chairs of the Mission Mississippi's Mississippi Mayors Prayer Breakfast in downtown Jackson May 2. The Friday event begins at 7:15 a.m. at the Mississippi Telcom Center on Pascagoula Street. Celebrating its 15th anniversary, Mission Mississippi is a statewide ministry that seeks to demonstrate unity in the body of Christ across racial and denominational lines so communities can better understand the gospel message. The group is led by Dolphus Weary. For more details call (601) 353-6477.
2. Mark Hugh Malone, dean of the Winters School of Music at William Carey University, received the Ernestine Ferrell Award for Excellence in Choral Music recently from the Mississippi Music Educators and American Choral Directors Association. This annual award is given to an educator who has taught more than 20 years in Mississippi and who displays a love for teaching and excellence in choral music. The award is named in honor of Ernestine Ferrell, a vital contributor to choral music in the 20th century, especially in Mississippi.

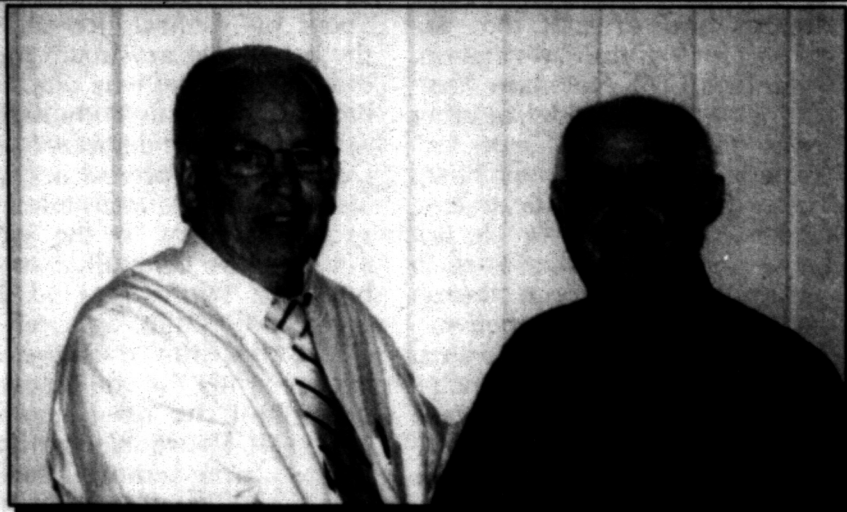


3. BMC Scholarship recipients

3. Twenty-eight ministerial students at Blue Mountain College recently received the James L. Travis Scholarship, including: Andrew Bailey of McKenzie, Tenn.; Tim Bass of Tiplersville; Andrew Best of Pride, La.; Jonathan Cagle of Booneville; Phillip Carithers Jr. of Harvest, La.; Charlie Cisco of Slayden; Larry Dickerson II of Olive Branch; Chris Ferguson of Clarksdale; Nathan Hamilton of Smithville; Brad Hill of Ripley; Jonathan Hobson of Indianola; Nick Hughes of Mendenhall; Jesse Huggins of Glenn; John Mark Jarrett of Tupelo; Brian Jones of Carthage; Matthew King of Water Valley; Andrew Ledbetter of Tupelo; Thomas Magers II of Nettleton; Blake McCain of Plantersville; Jay Nanney of Belden; John Reid Roberts of Tupelo; Blake Richardson of Etta; Nathan Russell of Eupora; David Singleton of Saltillo; Daniel Thompson of Blue Mountain; Dustin Tutor of Smithville; Jason Webb of Tupelo; and Clark Whitten of Kossuth.

## State Changes

1. Macedonia Church, Brookhaven, has called Garland Boyd as pastor. Boyd comes with wife Gail and daughters Jessica and Kallie. He holds degrees from West Lincoln High School, attended Clarke College, graduated from Mississippi College and is completing his D. Min. at New Orleans Seminary. He comes from Macedonia Church, Gulfport.
2. Bissell Church, Tupelo, has called Paul Reed as minister of music. He has served several churches in the area and comes with his wife, Shirley. He is shown with pastor Roger Smith.
3. New Hope Church, Carthage, has called Shane McGivney as pastor. He is shown with his wife Shelia and children, Patrick and Catilin.



2. Smith and Reed



3. The McGivneys

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